

Message Text

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73

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-01

INR-07 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01

OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-03 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 XMB-02 /102 W
----- 038033

R 251545Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2371

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG EWWT EG

SUBJECT: US-BELGIAN-IRANIAN LNG PROJECT

REF A. TEHRAN 869; B. ANKARA 729

1. EMBASSY WAS UNSUCCESSFUL IN EFFORTS TO CONTACT EL PASO REPS DURING THEIR STAY IN CAIRO, ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTAND THEY WERE HERE AND DID HAVE MEETINGS WITH OFFICIALS OF SUEZ CANAL AUTHORITY (SCA).

2. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT EL PASO HAD MUCH SUCCESS IN ARRANGING LONG-TERM COMMITMENT ON TOLLS, ALTHOUGH SCA WAS PROBABLY VERY INTERESTED IN POSSIBILITY OF 600 LNG PASSANGES THROUGH CANAL MENTIONED REFTEL A. SUBJECT OF TOLL CHARGES IS CLOSELY LINKED TO GOE'S PLANS TO WIDEN AND DEEPEN CANAL AND IS MAJOR FACTOR IN FEASIBILITY STUDIES THAT ARE BEING CONDUCTED TO DETERMINE OPTIMUM CROSS-SECTION. IBRD, WHICH HAS
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BEEN ASKED TO PROVIDE SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF FINANCING FOR

THIS CANAL UNDERTAKING, HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN QUITE INSISTENT THAT CAREFUL COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS OF PROJECT MUST BE MADE BEFORE BANK WILL CONSIDER EXTENSION OF LOANS. A NUMBER OF FOREIGN AND EGYPTIAN CONSULTANTS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN STUDY OF TOLLS, AN EXTREMELY COMPLICATED ISSUE, AND WE HAVE IMPRESSION MATTER IS FAR FROM SETTLED.

3. FYI - TURKISH EMBASSY OFFICIALS HERE HAVE SPOKEN TO US ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS EXPLAINING POTENTIAL IMPORTANCE TO TURKEY OF LIQUIFICATION PLANT AT ISKENDERUN AND URGING SUPPORT FOR THAT OPTION. REFTELS HAVE BEEN VERY USEFUL IN THESE DISCUSSIONS, PERMITTING EMBASSY TO POINT OUT ECONOMIC DETERMINANTS THAT WILL AFFECT ULTIMATE DECISION. END FYI.

4. WE WILL ATTEMPT TO WATCH DEVELOPMENTS ON THESE MATTERS, AND WILL KEEP ADDRESSEES INFORMED.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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